



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY NAMES OUTSTANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley today named two companies and five individuals as recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development for 2006. The awards honor individuals and businesses for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions in helping the state achieve its workforce development goals.

"The companies and employees who earned these awards demonstrate a commitment to earning the knowledge, talent and skill necessary to succeed in our global economy," said Easley. "I commend them for helping to make North Carolina's workforce one of the most high-skilled and well-educated in our nation."

Award recipients include:

**Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances, New Bern:** *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.* This noted community partner, with one of its two North American factories located in New Bern, has played a significant role in energizing workforce development in North Carolina's eastern counties. Among the company's contributions to the community, BHS has established several successful workforce development initiatives through partnerships with North Carolina's public education systems and local community organizations. In addition to BHS's corporate leadership, its employees invest nearly 10,000 hours annually in a variety of community organizations and events such as career fairs, advisory committees and student enrichment programs.

**Cherokee County Machined Product Cluster, Murphy:** *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.* Comprised of three companies that employ about 700 people, the Cherokee County Machined Product Cluster has demonstrated a commitment to community involvement, worker training and educational opportunities for those interested in machining. The cluster has donated time and more than \$200,000 in equipment to the renovation of the Cherokee County Center for Applied Technology. By offering college scholarships, tuition reimbursement, and other training options to employees and the general public through the N.C. Community College System, the Cherokee County Machined Product Cluster has provided avenues for advancement to diverse and under-represented workers, and sets an example for other businesses throughout the state.

**April Culbreth, Oxford:** *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Adult Participant.* While raising her children, she pursued an associate's degree in nursing from Vance-Granville Community College, where she was recognized for her academic excellence. She graduated in May with a 3.18 GPA and has been offered a position as a registered nurse at John Umstead Hospital in Butner.

**Bettie J. Fisher, Kinston:** *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Adult Participant.* Not one to shy from a challenge, Bettie Fisher defied stereotypes when her need for